

**MOUNT LAUREL FIRE DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**March 16, 2015**

**Fire Department Headquarters Station  
Meeting Minutes #5**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Commissioner Cornue
2. Commissioner Ridenour
3. Commissioner Roura
4. Commissioner Shestack
5. Commissioner Hamilton
6. Chief of Department Colucci
7. Deputy Chief Burnett
8. Administrator Jones

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Solicitor Braslow, but available by phone

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Shestack at 8:04 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed.

Public announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton.

Chief of Department Colucci presented the crew of Engine Company 3632 (Acting Lieutenant Stenton, Firefighter Weston, Firefighter Kromplewski, Firefighter Radtke, and Firefighter Huelster) with a CPR Save award.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution #2015-17 "Promotion of William E. McCorkle to the Position of Battalion Chief". Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:14 PM so that the families of Engine Company 3632 members and Battalion Chief McCorkle could take pictures. The Board meeting resumed at 8:27 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the 3/3/15 Special Meeting minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

Commissioner Roura reported that he had reviewed the monthly bills for March and noted that they were abnormally high this month as a result of the annual employer pension payment and interest payments on 2 bond issues that were processed for payment and due on 4/1. Commissioner Shestack asked Administrator Jones how much the pension payment was and he replied that it was approximately \$800,000 this year. Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve March bills of \$1,248,597.52 that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**MONTHLY REPORT BY ADMINISTRATOR:**

The Administrator had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board on his report.

### **MONTHLY REPORT BY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT:**

Chief of Department Colucci had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. He added that he and Battalion Chief Evans had attended the Township Zoning Board meeting on 3/12 regarding approval of the site plans for the 9/11 Memorial. He stated that everything went well and that we had been approved to move forward. He was hoping that this work could be wrapped up by the time the bond issue site work was scheduled to begin in late summer – early fall.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Buildings and Grounds: Commissioner Ridenour reported that we will be meeting with The Design Collaborative Architects on the afternoon of 3/18/15 to review progress prints and discuss the schedule. Commissioner Shestack asked him when he thinks they'll get started on the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the improvements and he replied that he was hoping that work could begin sometime between the middle of April and early May. Commissioner Shestack asked him if the roofing work will be done first and Commissioner Ridenour replied that it would be. Administrator Jones added that we will be discussing the scheduling and coordination of the work involved at the meeting along with our desire for a single general contractor doing the work at all 3 buildings so that we minimize potential responsibility issues.

### **OTHER MATTERS:**

Chief of Department Colucci briefed the Board on draft Administrative Policy #04-045 "Contributing Member Stipend Program", in particular the potential monetary impact, which he will know more about once we meet with our Capehart & Scatchard IRS attorney again. He has drafted this policy to recognize the contributions of "non-firefighting" members to the Department. Members that retire from the volunteer ranks because they can no longer do structural firefighting but still wish to contribute to the Department in other ways would be eligible for this program. He hoped that the Board understood the importance of recognizing these members and allowing them to contribute in non-traditional ways to the Department. He added that he has not had any discussion with any members that might be eligible for this program and that the numbers in the draft are open for discussion. Commissioner Shestack asked him what the IRS attorney was involved for and Chief of Department Colucci replied that she isn't an IRS attorney but an attorney that works for Capehart & Scatchard that specializes in IRS law and she was brought in last year to help us determine the potential tax implications for members that receive the annual stipend, LOSAP, uniforms, training, meals and other incentives so that we can better protect ourselves from any exposure to back taxes.

Commissioner Roura agreed that it was important to get those answers before we begin considering a policy like this so that we can choose how to best implement it.

### **COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Roura brought up the invitation that was extended to the Board for the annual EMS banquet that will be held on 3/28 and stated that he and Commissioner Shestack won't be able to make it. Commissioner Ridenour added that it looks like it will be Chief of Department Colucci and himself attending to represent the Department.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Jarry Jones (4515 Church Road, Mt. Laurel) thanked the Board for recognizing the members of the Monday Night Duty Crew for their CPR Save tonight and then asked them how the 911 Memorial was coming along. Chief of Department Colucci replied that Battalion Chief Evans was spearheading the project and that the Board of Fire Commissioners have not been intimately involved with it. He added that the 911 Memorial Committee was trying to get much of the work done "pro-bono" and that Garrison Architects and Al Litwornia had donated a lot of their time towards the design already. With the Township Zoning Board approving the design, we can now move full steam ahead with it. He reported that we have received a grant from EP Henry for all of the stone pavers that we need. Mr. Jones stated that he has been bugging Battalion Chief Evans to get a cost estimate on the work that has to be done and he didn't think that the Committee was even close to having enough money to complete it. Chief of Department Colucci invited him to become a member of the Mount Laurel Firefighters Foundation and lend his expertise to the project. He added that the Committee has been working with a marketing company on a fund-raising mailer and a video along with a website for people to make donations electronically. There was a lot going on with the project but it was not being done through the Board of Fire Commissioners because everyone agreed that this project should be completed without using any tax revenues. Commissioner Roura added that Battalion Chief Evans and a group of staff out of Station 362 took this project on and have done a great job so far in obtaining materials from each of the sites involved on the 2001 attacks. Mr. Jones stated that he had spearheaded the construction of the Veteran's Memorial at Laurel Acres Park and knows what they are going through and what the process was but he felt that you have to stay on it and continue to move it along and he didn't think that this was happening. Chief of Department Colucci agreed that although it doesn't appear that anything is happening, but he assured him that it was and that it will get done.

Resolution #2015-18 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 8:54 PM.  
A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 8:56 PM.  
THE CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 9:22 PM.**

Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:23 PM.**